



USAID | CAMBODIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Cambodia experienced severe floods during 2000 and 2001

BACKGROUND

The percentage of Cambodians with disabilities is estimated at more than 3 percent of the population. Most are children and adults of working age. The most common causes are due to illness or disease (30 percent); congenital defects (25 percent); accidents (13 percent); war or conflict (13 percent); and landmine explosions (8 percent). With such overwhelming needs, Cambodia's education, health, and social services are inadequate to cope with the special health needs of its citizens.

USAID and the Leahy War Victims Fund have worked actively for the past 12 years to increase the availability of appropriate prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitative services, to build local capacity to deliver quality services, and to improve the policy environment to supporting the rights and needs of people with disabilities.

USAID SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

Veterans International (VI) manages three rehabilitation centers throughout Cambodia. The centers are located outside Phnom Penh, in Prey Veng Province in the south-east, and in Kratie Province in the northeast. They provide a full range of free services to the disabled, including prosthetic (artificial limbs) and orthotic (braces) devices, physical therapy, and follow-up treatment for those in need in the communities.

VI also provides support for two lecturers at the **Cambodia School of Prosthetics and Orthotics**, a regional center that trains students from the region in making and caring for quality prosthetics and orthotics.

Handicap International (HI) provides financial and technical support for the **Disabilities Action Council (DAC)**, a permanent body consisting of representatives from the Cambodian Government, international groups and non-government organizations that functions as a disability rights group. The DAC works to ensure the rights, services and opportunities for people with disabilities and advises the Cambodian Government on policies and issues affecting people with disabilities.

USAID supported a community-based disaster preparedness program implemented by the American Red Cross. The program helped to strengthen the **Cambodian Red Cross (CRC)** through training targeted at community volunteers and leaders.

RESULTS TO DATE

- USAID/Cambodia has provided more than \$16.8 million over the past 10 years in support of rehabilitative services through VI. In an effort to ensure future sustainability an endowment will be established.
- USAID and VI are working with other agencies in the sector to strengthen the financial sustainability of the rehabilitation centers.
- USAID has funded HI/DAC since 1998. The current three year extension to the cooperative agreement will expire in 2005. Total obligation to date is approximately \$1.0 million.
- In 2001, CRC began replicating the disaster preparedness initiative in seven additional provinces beyond the initial target areas of Kandal, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng. Over \$500,000 was given to CRC prior to the completion of the project in February 2002.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE